

HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

CONFIDENTIALITY OF YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

Our privacy practices reflect applicable federal law as well as state law. The privacy laws of a particular state or other federal laws might impose a stricter privacy standard. If these stricter laws apply and are not superseded by federal preemption rules under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Plans will comply with the stricter law.

We are required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your Protected Health Information (PHI). Protected Health Information (PHI) is information that is maintained or transmitted by Delta Dental, which may identify you and that relates to your past, present, or future physical or mental health condition and related health care services.

Some examples of PHI include your name, address, telephone and/or fax number, electronic mail address, social security number or other identification number, date of birth, date of treatment, treatment records, x-rays, enrollment and claims records. We receive, use and disclose your PHI to administer your benefit plan as permitted or required by law.

We must follow the federal and state privacy requirements described that apply to our administration of your benefits and provide you with a copy of this notice. We reserve the right to change our privacy practices when needed and we promptly post the updated notice within 60 days on our website.

PERMITTED USES AND DISCLOSURES OF YOUR PHI

Uses and disclosures of your PHI for treatment, payment or health care operations

Your explicit authorization is not required to disclose information for purposes of health care treatment, payment of claims, billing of premiums, and other health care operations. Examples of this include processing your claims, collecting enrollment information and premiums, reviewing the quality of health care you receive, providing customer service, resolving your grievances, and sharing payment information with other insurers, determine your eligibility for services, billing you or your plan sponsor.

If your benefit plan is sponsored by your employer or another party, we may provide PHI to your employer or plan sponsor to administer your benefits. As permitted by law, we may disclose PHI to third-party affiliates that perform services on our behalf to administer your benefits. Any third-party affiliates performing services on our behalf has signed a contract agreeing to protect the confidentiality of your PHI and has implemented privacy policies and procedures that comply with applicable federal and state law.

Permitted uses and disclosures without an authorization

We are permitted to disclose your PHI upon your request, or to your authorized personal representative (with certain exceptions), when required by the U. S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to investigate or determine our compliance with the law, and when otherwise required by law. We may disclose your PHI without your prior authorization in response to the following:

- Court order;
- Order of a board, commission, or administrative agency for purposes of adjudication pursuant to its lawful authority;
- Subpoena in a civil action;
- Investigative subpoena of a government board, commission, or agency;
- Subpoena in an arbitration;
- Law enforcement search warrant; or
- Coroner's request during investigations.

Some other examples include: to notify or assist in notifying a family member, another person, or a personal representative of your condition; to assist in disaster relief efforts; to report victims of abuse, neglect or domestic violence to appropriate authorities; for organ donation purposes; to avert a serious threat to health or safety; for specialized government functions such as military and veterans activities; for workers' compensation purposes; and, with certain restrictions, we are permitted to use and/or disclose your PHI for underwriting, provided it does not contain genetic information. Information can also be de-identified or summarized so it cannot be traced to you and, in selected instances, for research purposes with the proper oversight.

Disclosures made with your authorization

We will not use or disclose your PHI without your prior written authorization unless permitted by law. If you grant an authorization, you can later revoke that authorization, in writing, to stop the future use and disclosure.

YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING PHI

You have the right to request an inspection of and obtain a copy of your PHI.

You may access your PHI by providing a written request. Your request must include (1) your name, address, telephone number and identification number, and (2) the PHI you are requesting. We will provide a copy or a summary of your health and claims records, usually within 30 days of your request. We may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing, or other supplies associated with your request. We will only maintain PHI that we obtain or utilize in providing your health care benefits. We may not maintain some PHI, such as treatment records or x-rays after we have completed our review of that information. You may need to contact your health care provider to obtain PHI that we do not possess.

You may not inspect or copy PHI compiled in reasonable anticipation of, or use in, a civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding, or PHI that is otherwise not subject to disclosure under federal or state law. In some circumstances, you may have a right to have this decision reviewed.

You have the right to request a restriction of your PHI.

You have the right to ask that we limit how we use and disclose your PHI; however, you may not restrict our legal or permitted uses and disclosures of PHI. While we will consider your request, we are not legally required to accept those requests that we cannot reasonably implement or comply with during an emergency.

You have the right to correct or update your PHI.

You may request to make an amendment of PHI we maintain about you. In certain cases, we may deny your request for an amendment. If we deny your request for amendment, you have the right to file a statement of disagreement with us and we may prepare a rebuttal to your statement and will provide you with a copy of any such rebuttal within 60 days. If your PHI was sent to us by another, we may refer you to that person to amend your PHI. For example, we may refer you to your provider to amend your treatment chart or to your employer, if applicable, to amend your enrollment information.

You have rights related to the use and disclosure of your PHI for marketing.

We will obtain your authorization for the use or disclosure of PHI for marketing when required by law. You have the right to withdraw your authorization at any time. We do not use your PHI for fundraising purposes.

You have the right to request or receive confidential communications from us by alternative means or at a different address.

You have the right to request that we communicate with you in a certain way or at a certain location. For example, you can ask that we only contact you at work or by mail. We will not ask you the reason for your request. We will accommodate all reasonable requests. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted.

You have the right to receive an accounting of certain disclosures we have made, if any, of your PHI.

You have a right to an accounting of disclosures with some restrictions. This right does not apply to disclosures for purposes of treatment, payment, or health care operations or for information we disclosed after we received a valid authorization from you. Additionally, we do not need to account for disclosures made to you, to family members or friends involved in your care, or for notification purposes. We do not need to account for disclosures made for national security reasons, certain law enforcement purposes or disclosures made as part of a limited data set. We'll provide one accounting a year for free but will charge a reasonable, cost-based fee if you ask for another accounting within 12 months.

You have the right to a paper copy of this notice.

A copy of this notice is posted on our website. You may also request that a copy be sent to you.

You have the right to be notified following a breach of unsecured protected health information.

We will notify you in writing, at the address on file, if we discover we compromised the privacy of your PHI.

You have the right to choose someone to act for you.

If you have given someone medical power of attorney or if someone is your legal guardian, that person can exercise your rights and make choices about your health information. We will make sure the person has this authority and can act for you before we take any action.

COMPLAINTS

You may file a complaint with us and/or with the U. S. Secretary of Health and Human Services if you believe we have violated your privacy rights. We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

CONTACTS

You may contact us by calling 866-530-9675, or you may write to the address listed below for further information about the complaint process or any of the information contained in this notice.

Delta Dental
PO Box 997330
Sacramento, CA 95899-7330

This notice is effective on and after March 1, 2019.

Contacts

For questions about these notices, please call us at **866-530-9675**.

You may also write to us at

Delta Dental of California
P.O. Box 997330
Sacramento, CA 95899-7330

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